Supplementary information

Supplementary Table 1. Bivariate analyses for all variables in the unselected patient population

	Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV	LR+	LR-	OR
	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)	(95% CI)
Physicians' opinion: something is wrong	63.33	97.30	15.45	99.71	23.48	0.38	62.30
	(46.09–80.58)	(96.79–97.81)	(9.06–21.83)	(99.54–99.88)	(16.85–32.71)	(0.24–0.60)	(28.91–134.24)
Parents' opinion: illness different from previous illnesses.	46.43	96.76	9.49	99.60	14.35	0.55	25.92
	(27.96–64.90)	(96.20–97.33)	(4.58–14.40)	(99.39–99.80)	(9.30–22.15)	(0.39–0.78)	(12.08–55.65)
Illness duration ≥48 hours	48.39	46.54	0.72	99.11	0.91	1.11	0.82
	(30.79–65.98)	(44.96–48.12)	(0.36–1.09)	(98.68–99.55)	(0.63–1.30)	(0.79 –1.56)	(0.40–1.66)
Body temperature ≥38°C	82.76	45.82	1.34	99.67	1.53	0.38	4.06
	(69.01–96.51)	(44.10–47.53)	(0.81–1.88)	(99.37–99.96)	(1.29–1.81)	(0.17–0.84)	(1.54–10.66)
Body temperature ≥39°C	55.17 (37.07–73.27)	76.00 (74.53–77.47)	2.01 (1.04–2.99)	99.48 (99.19–99.76)	2.30 (1.65–3.21)	0.59 (0.39–0.88)	3.90 (1.87–8.14)
Body temperature ≥40°C	20.69 (5.95–35.43)	96.49 (95.86–97.12)	5.00 (1.10–8.90)	99.27 (98.98–99.57)	5.90 (2.83–12.30)	0.82 (0.68–0.99)	7.18 (2.87–17.97)
Upper respiratory infection	67.74	31.90	0.78	99.20	0.99	1.01	0.98
	(51.29–84.20)	(30.44–33.36)	(0.45–1.12)	(98.71–99.70)	(0.78–1.27)	(0.61–1.69)	(0.46–2.10)
Coughing	61.29	52.71	1.01	99.42	1.30	0.73	1.77
	(44.14–78.44)	(51.15–54.28)	(0.56–1.47)	(99.10–99.75)	(0.98–1.72)	(0.47–1.14)	(0.85–3.65)
Dyspnoea	38.71	95.84	6.86	99.50	9.30	0.64	14.54
	(21.56–55.86)	(95.21–96.46)	(3.11–10.60)	(99.27–99.72)	(5.83–14.85)	(0.48–0.85)	(6.94–30.46)
Changed breathing	38.71	91.27	3.40	99.47	4.43	0.67	6.60
	(21.56–55.86)	(90.38–92.16)	(1.51–5.29)	(99.23–99.71)	(2.81–6.98)	(0.51–0.89)	(3.18–13.72)
Tachypnoea	32.26	96.70	7.19	99.45	9.78	0.70	13.96
	(15.80–48.71)	(96.14–97.26)	(2.90–11.49)	(99.21–99.68)	(5.71–16.74)	(0.55–0.89)	(6.44–30.25)
Crepitations	32.26	94.59	4.55	99.43	5.97	0.72	8.33
	(15.80–48.71)	(93.88–95.31)	(1.79–7.30)	(99.19–99.67)	(3.52–10.11)	(0.56–0.91)	(3.87–17.92)
Decreased breathing sounds, dullness on percussion	20.00 (5.69–34.31)	97.85 (97.40–98.31)	6.74 (1.53–11.95)	99.37 (99.12–99.62)	9.32 (4.42–19.67)	0.82 (0.68–0.98)	11.40 (4.54–28.63)
Does not laugh any more	42.86	89.88	2.96	99.54	4.24	0.64	6.66
	(24.53–61.19)	(88.93–90.83)	(1.31–4.61)	(99.32–99.77)	(2.73–6.56)	(0.46–0.88)	(3.13–14.18)
Somnolent	30.00	86.64	1.72	99.37	2.25	0.81	2.78
	(13.60–46.40)	(85.57–87.72)	(0.61–2.84)	(99.11–99.64)	(1.29–3.90)	(0.64–1.02)	(1.27–6.10)
Changed crying	35.71	96.60	7.04	99.52	10.51	0.67	15.80
	(17.97–53.46)	(96.03–97.17)	(2.83–11.25)	(99.30–99.74)	(6.22–17.76)	(0.50–0.88)	(7.15–34.88)
Inconsolable	20.00 (5.69–34.31)	96.39 (95.81–96.98)	4.08 (0.88–7.28)	99.37 (99.11–99.62)	5.54 (2.66–11.55)	0.83 (0.69–0.99)	6.68 (2.69–16.60)
Drowsy	38.71	94.14	4.98	99.49	6.61	0.65	10.15
	(21.56–55.86)	(93.41–94.88)	(2.23–7.73)	(99.26–99.72)	(4.17–10.47)	(0.49–0.86)	(4.87–21.17)
Irritable	22.58	90.34	1.82	99.32	2.34	0.86	2.73
	(7.86–37.30)	(89.41–91.27)	(0.48–3.16)	(99.05–99.59)	(1.21–4.52)	(0.71–1.04)	(1.17–6.37)
Moaning	10.00 (0.00–20.74)	98.31 (97.90–98.71)	4.35 (0.00–9.16)	99.30 (99.04–99.56)	5.90 (1.97–17.73)	0.92 (0.81–1.03)	6.45 (1.91–21.78)
Unconsciousness	9.68	99.51	13.64	99.28	19.89	0.91	21.91
	(0.00–20.09)	(99.30–99.73)	(0.00–27.98)	(99.02–99.55)	(6.20–63.78)	(0.81–1.02)	(6.13–78.28)
Decreased eating and drinking	36.67	76.23	1.17	99.36	1.54	0.83	1.86
	(19.42–53.91)	(74.89–77.56)	(0.48–1.86)	(99.08–99.65)	(0.96–2.48)	(0.63–1.09)	(0.88–3.91)
Vomiting	22.58 (7.86–37.30)	80.23 (78.98–81.47)	0.90 (0.24–1.56)	99.24 (98.94–99.54)	1.14	0.97 (0.80–1.17)	1.18 (0.51–2.76)
Diarrhoea	16.13	83.66	0.78	99.21	0.99	1.00	0.98
	(3.18–29.08)	(82.50–84.82)	(0.10–1.46)	(98.91–99.51)	(0.44–2.21)	(0.86–1.17)	(0.38–2.57)
Weight loss	7.41	96.99	1.74	99.32	2.46	0.95	2.58
	(0.00–17.29)	(96.45–97.54)	(0.00–4.13)	(99.05–99.59)	(0.64–9.47)	(0.86–1.06)	(0.60–11.03)
Dehydration	3.33	98.66	1.89	99.25	2.49	0.98	2.54
	(0.00–9.76)	(98.30–99.02)	(0.00–5.55)	(98.98–99.52)	(0.36–17.43)	(0.92–1.05)	(0.34–19.01)
Tummy ache	8.33	79.74	0.27	99.25	0.41	1.15	0.36
	(0.00–19.39)	(78.43–81.04)	(0.00–0.64)	(98.94–99.56)	(0.11–1.55)	(1.02–1.30)	(0.08–1.52)
Urinary symptoms	10.34	98.25	4.41	99.29	5.90	0.91	6.47
	(0.00–21.43)	(97.82–98.67)	(0.00–9.29)	(99.02–99.56)	(1.97–17.70)	(0.81–1.03)	(1.91–21.90)
Impaired peripheral circulation	10.00 (0.00–20.74)	99.74 (99.58–99.90)	23.08 (0.17–45.98)	99.31	38.76 (11.23–133.83)	0.90 (0.80–1.02)	42.96 (11.20–164.81)
Cyanosis	6.67 (0.00–15.59)	99.87 (99.76–99.98)	28.57 (0.00–62.04)	99.29	52.17 (10.53–258.42)	0.93 (0.85–1.03)	55.83 (10.39–299.99)
Convulsions	6.45 (0.00–15.10)	99.69 (99.51–99.86)	14.29 (0.00–32.62)	99.25 (98.98–99.52)	20.68	0.94 (0.86–1.03)	22.03 (4.72–102.88)
Rash	6.45 (0.00–15.10)	96.66 (96.09–97.22)	1.52 (0.00–3.60)	99.23 (98.96–99.51)	1.93 (0.50–7.45)	0.97 (0.88–1.06)	1.99 (0.47–8.44)
Headache	4.76 (0.00–13.87)	79.14 (77.80–80.48)	0.14 (0.00–0.40)	99.29 (98.98–99.60)	0.23 (0.03–1.55)	1.20 (1.09–1.33)	0.19 (0.03–1.42)
Meningeal irritation	3.33 (0.00–9.76)	99.87 (99.76–99.98)	16.67 (0.00–46.49)	99.25	25.65 (3.09–213.04)	0.97 (0.91–1.03)	26.50 (3.00–233.97)
Petechiae	3.23 (0.00–9.45)	99.74 (99.58–99.90)	9.09 (0.00–26.08)	99.23 (98.96–99.51)	12.53	0.97 (0.91–1.03)	12.91 (1.60–104.04)
	(0.00 0.40)	(00.00 00.00)	(0.00 20.00)	(00.00 00.01)	(1.00 04.00)	(0.01 1.00)	(1.00 104.04)

Van den Bruel A, Aertgeerts B, Bruyninckx R, et al. Signs and symptoms for diagnosis of serious infections in children: a prospective study in primary care. Br J Gen Pract 2007; 57(540): 538–546. ©British Journal of General Practice